GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2404
ANSWERED ON:04.12.2000
STUDY ON INTEGRATED RURAL ENERGY PROGRAMME
DUKHA BHAGAT

Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the main features of the Integrated Rural Energy Programme;

(b) the details of the implementation of this programme in Bihar;

(c) whether expected results are being achieved from this programme in the State;

(d) whether a study has been conducted by the Government regarding the progress of this programme in the State; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES

(INDEPENDENT CHARGE) (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN)

(a) : The main feature of the Centrally Sponsored Scheme -Integrated Rural EnergyProgramme (IREP)is to provide optimum mix of energy sources for meeting energy needs for subsistence and productive purposes, through preparation and implementation of Block level integrated rural energy plans and projects. The programme has the Central Sector and theState Sector components.The Central Sector component includes support for developing capabilities in the States and Union Territories for preparing energy plans and projects. The State Sector component includes implementationof IREP plans and projects, includingfunding for demonstration projects, financial incentives for various energy devices, extension and other related activities. Funds and resources available under different on-going schemes for energy and rural development are also utilised in the IREP Blocks.

(b): The State Government of Bihar is presently implementing IREP in 10 Blocks only.

(c): The programme has not made desirable impact in general in the State of Bihar dueto limited financial provisions made under the State Plan Sectorfor implementation of IREP plans and projects.Since 1998-99, the Central financial assistance could not be sanctioned to the State nodal agency, namely Bihar Renewable Energy Development Agency

(BREDA) for want of utilization certificates and audited statements of accounts for the amounts released to the State in previous years under IREP.

(d): Yes, Sir.

(e): A project entitled `Analysis of IREP and Development of Capacity BuildingStrategy,` which was taken up with the support of United Nations Development Programmein twelve States, including Bihar, in the year 1999-2000 has made the following recommendations:

(i) The IREP should be consolidated rather than expanded;

(ii) The methodology for preparing Block-level energy plans should be improved and circulated to all States for adoption and compliance;

(iii) State Governments should provide adequate budget support for promotion of energy systems and devices in IREP Blocks. The IREP projects could even be taken up in a compact area within the Block depending upon the resources available;

(iv) The extension agencies should adopt a participatory approach for implementing IREP projects. Focus should be laid on training of women while implementing rural energy programmes. As far as possible, the cash subsidy on improved chulhas and other renewable energy devices should be discontinued;

(v) The Technical Back-up Units should be strengthened;

(vi) Adequate funds should be sanctioned for State and Block level IREP Cells and the cost could be shared between the Centre and the State Governments in the ratio of 75:25;

(vii) Coordination and mutual support were needed between the on-going programmes of the Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources and those of the Ministry of Rural Development in the IREP Blocks; and

(viii) The monitoring of IREP should be strengthened.